

# Master Plan Survey 2005

## Elk Rapids Village Master Plan



Elk Rapids Village  
Planning  
Commission

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# Harbor- and Waterfront- related Responses

Extracts from  
**Data Compilation  
Volume**

**Village of Elk Rapids Planning Commission  
Master Plan Survey 2005 - Data Compilation**

**I. Current Issues**

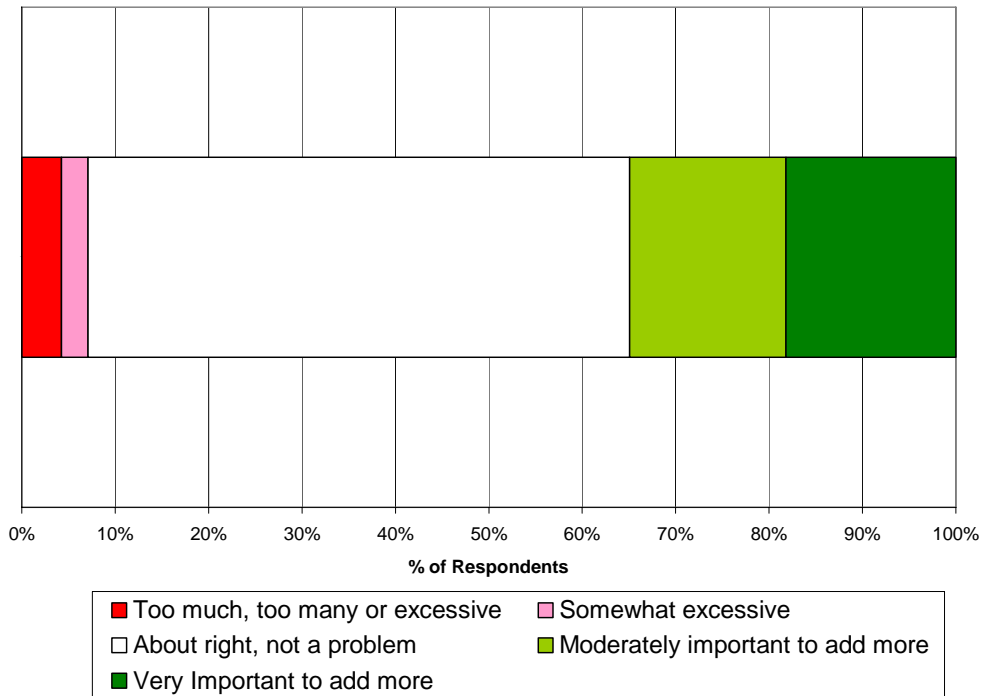
**A. Lakes and Waterfronts**

**1. How important is public access to lakes and waterways?**

No. of survey forms returned: **500**

No. of responses to this question: **495**

<u>Response Scale</u>	<u>Count</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
1. Very important to add more	90	18.2 %
2. Moderately important to add more	83	16.8 %
3. About right, not a problem	287	58.0 %
4. Somewhat excessive	14	2.8 %
5. Too much, too many or excessive	21	4.2 %



**Respondents' Comments to Question 1**

- Parking for day boating.
- More public docking on Elk Lake
- Especially boat launch to Elk Lake

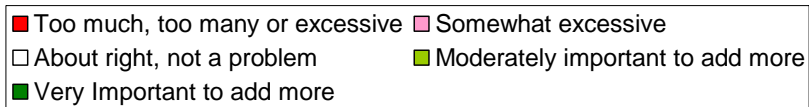
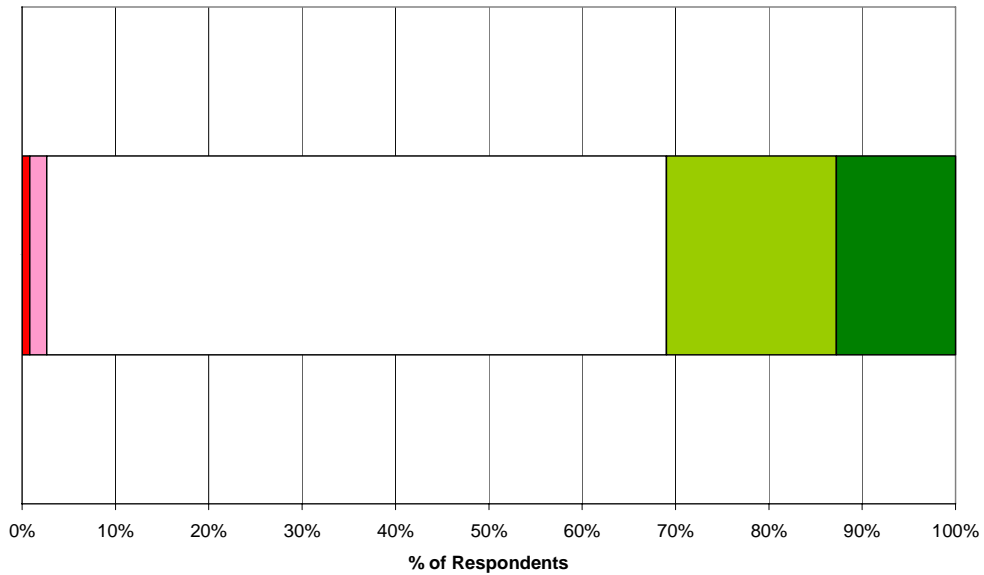
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**3. How important are waterfront parks and harbors?**

No. of survey forms returned: **500**

No. of responses to this question: **494**

<u>Response Scale</u>	<u>Count</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
1. Very important to add more	63	12.8 %
2. Moderately important to add more	90	18.2 %
3. About right, not a problem	328	66.4 %
4. Somewhat excessive	9	1.8 %
5. Too much, too many or excessive	4	0.8 %



**Respondents' Comments to Question 3**

- Very important: more resident and transient boat dockage on Elk River near downtown.

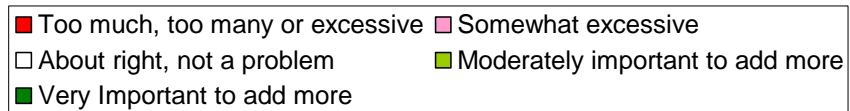
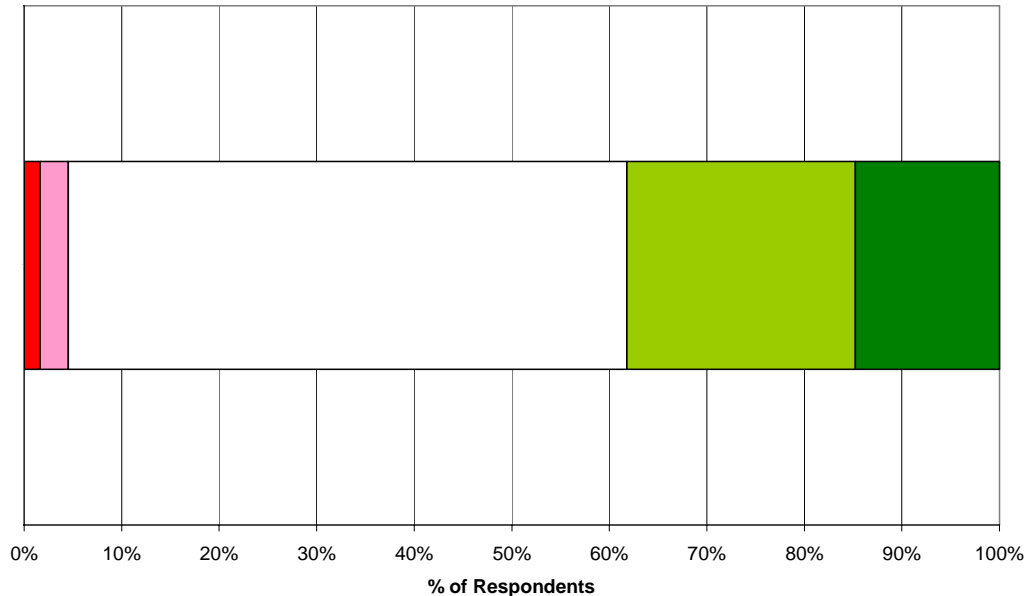
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**4. How important is regulation of boating activity on lakes?**

No. of survey forms returned: **500**

No. of responses to this question: **487**

<u>Response Scale</u>	<u>Count</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
1. Very important to add more	72	14.8 %
2. Moderately important to add more	114	23.4 %
3. About right, not a problem	279	57.3 %
4. Somewhat excessive	14	2.9 %
5. Too much, too many or excessive	8	1.6 %



**Respondents' Comments to Question 4**

- Jet skis near shore
- Speed control
- Regulate noise of LOUD motors
- Should always be monitored
- Noise

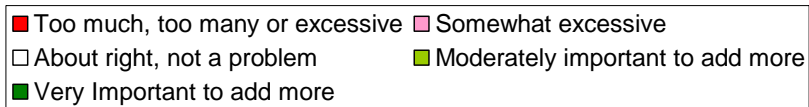
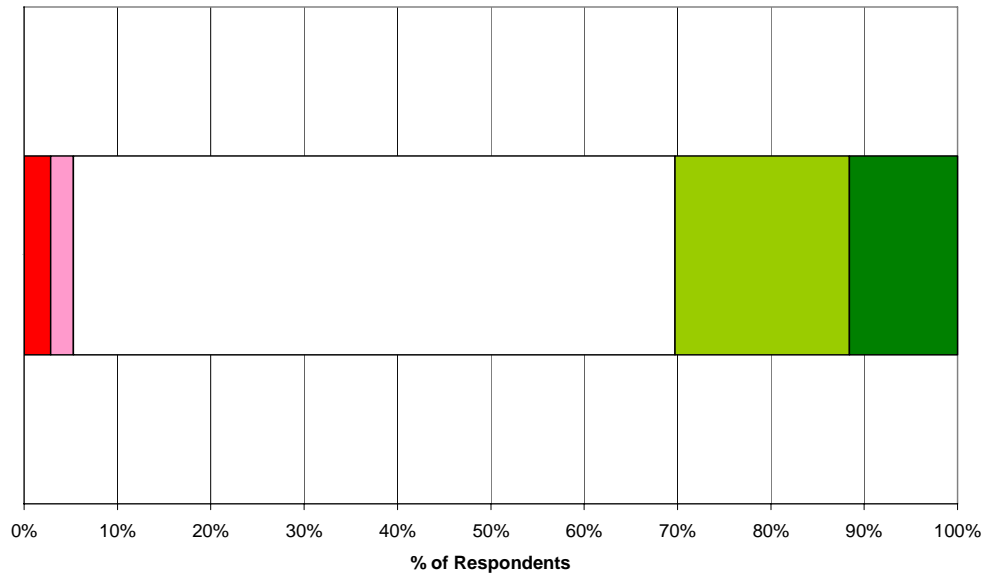
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**5. How important are boat launch sites?**

No. of survey forms returned: **500**

No. of responses to this question: **492**

<u>Response Scale</u>	<u>Count</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
1. Very important to add more	57	11.6 %
2. Moderately important to add more	92	18.7 %
3. About right, not a problem	317	64.4 %
4. Somewhat excessive	12	2.4 %
5. Too much, too many or excessive	14	2.8 %



**Respondents' Comments to Question 5**

- On Elk Lake
- Improve existing
- Improve the one in Rotary park

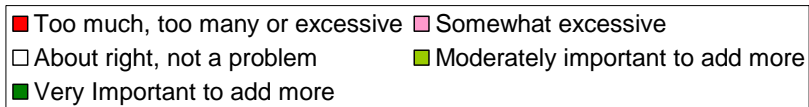
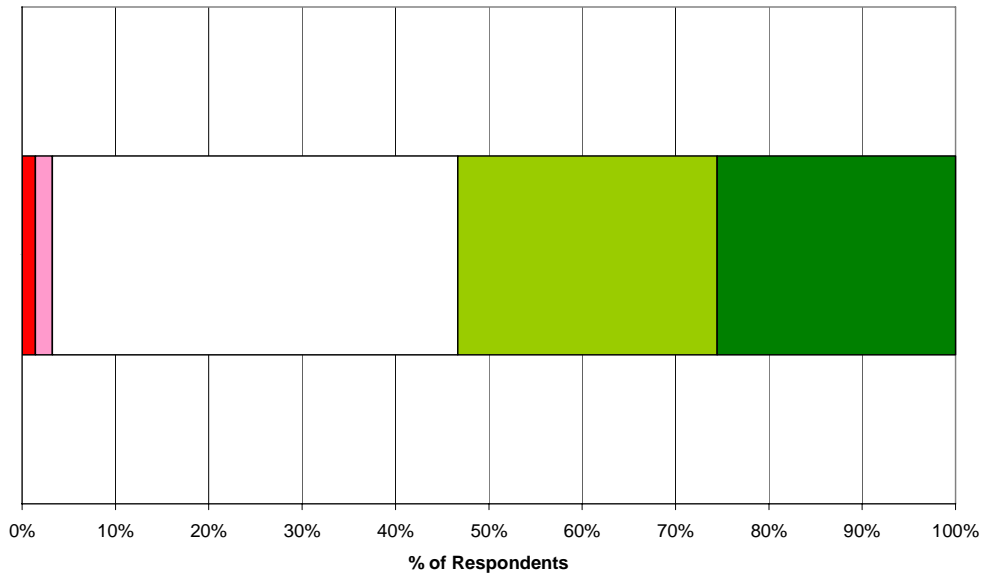
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**6. How important are open spaces for viewing lakes?**

No. of survey forms returned: **500**

No. of responses to this question: **493**

<u>Response Scale</u>	<u>Count</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
1. Very important to add more	126	25.6 %
2. Moderately important to add more	137	27.8 %
3. About right, not a problem	214	43.4 %
4. Somewhat excessive	9	1.8 %
5. Too much, too many or excessive	7	1.4 %



**Respondents' Comments to Question 6**

- Keep parks open-limit condo buildings that cut off views
- Some of the garden trees are restricting water views, i.e., by the boardwalk by Riverwalk Grill.
- It just seems like there's no cohesiveness in buildings --- make the town/village quaint without being overdone. The water views are amazing but seem to be such an afterthought: a mustard factory?! A huge condo complex (former ER Inn)?

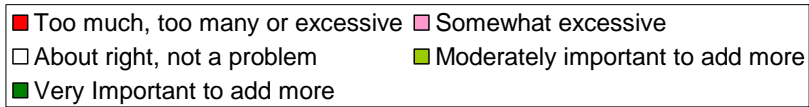
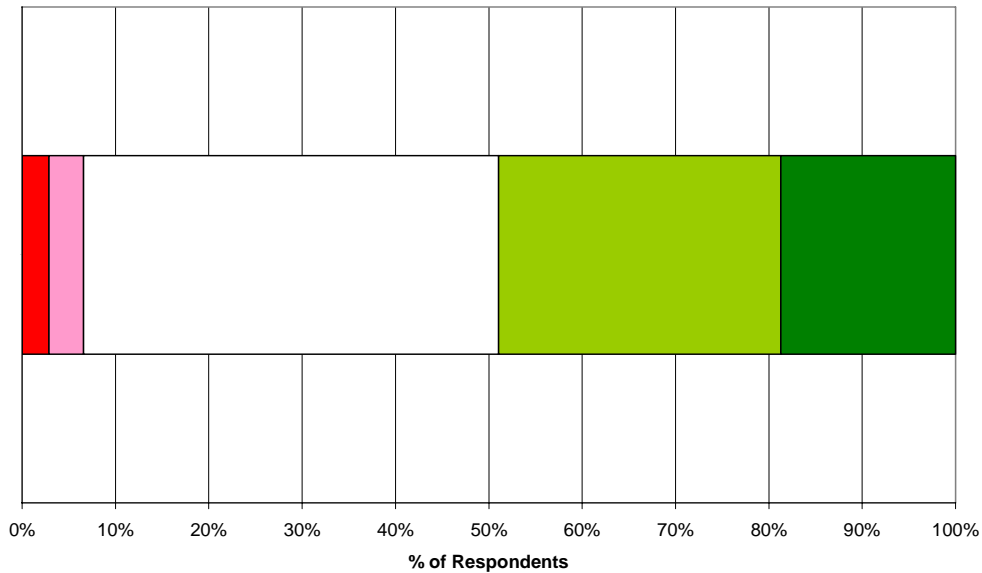
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**7. How important is combined car-boat trailer public parking?**

No. of survey forms returned: **500**

No. of responses to this question: **486**

<u>Response Scale</u>	<u>Count</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
1. Very important to add more	91	18.7 %
2. Moderately important to add more	147	30.2 %
3. About right, not a problem	216	44.4 %
4. Somewhat excessive	18	3.7 %
5. Too much, too many or excessive	14	2.9 %



**Respondents' Comments to Question 7**

- Use of school parking lot is a great idea. No sense adding more pavement for a 3-month concentration of trailers.
- No. 1 concern as area grows.
- They took away from our town marina. This was bad.
- OK --- with new Bridge St location; money may not realize Bridge St addition
- A problem ... enforce!

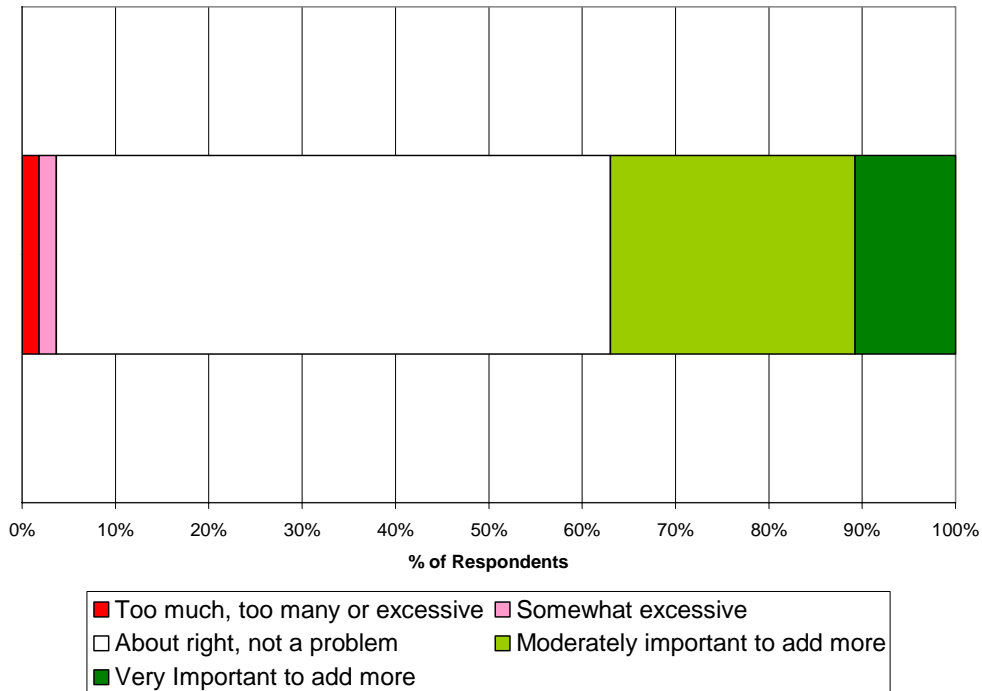
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**8. How important are public parking facilities at parks and recreation areas?**

No. of survey forms returned: **500**

No. of responses to this question: **492**

<u>Response Scale</u>	<u>Count</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
1. Very important to add more	53	10.8 %
2. Moderately important to add more	129	26.2 %
3. About right, not a problem	292	59.3 %
4. Somewhat excessive	9	1.8 %
5. Too much, too many or excessive	9	1.8 %



**Respondents' Comments to Question 8**

- Could be black-topped.
- Where is land available?
- **PARKING!** We keep allowing more building/development yet don't increase or save parking space. The Village chose to allow 3- storey building next to the bakery instead of buying a parking area. We then fill half the village parking with snow and make residents/biz owners move cars. We also allow biz owners to park on River/Dexter St for the whole day taking away from customers (parking meters?). Bridge St, Dexter St, S Bayshore commercial district parking have all been reduced --- yet the village officials say they are promoting biz. This is an oxymoron. All rules for local policy and laws are then abandoned for Harbor Days.

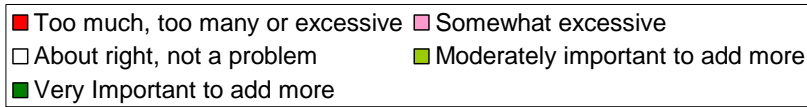
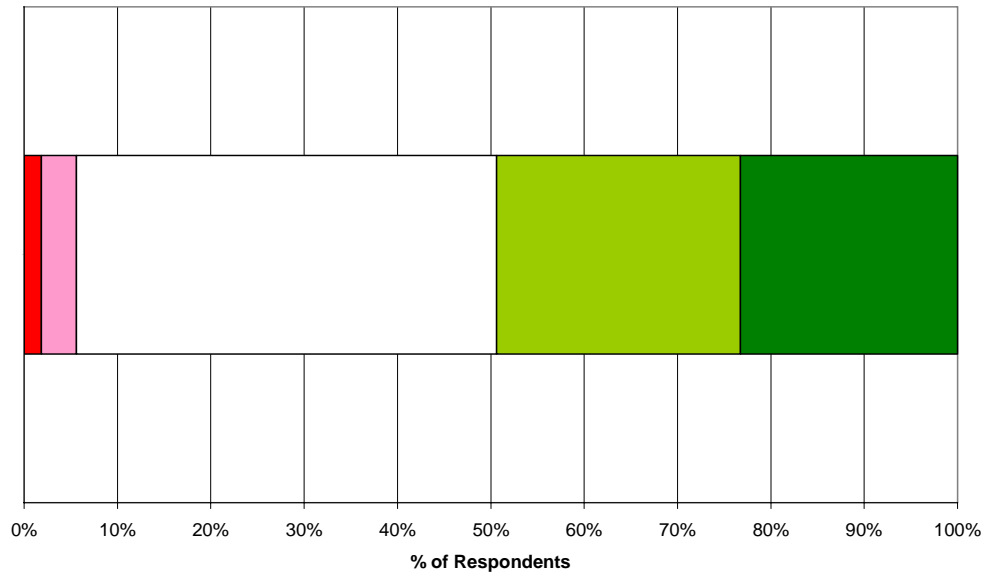
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**9. How important are local or Village environmental protection measures for shorelines?**

No. of survey forms returned: **500**

No. of responses to this question: **482**

<u>Response Scale</u>	<u>Count</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
1. Very important to add more	112	23.2 %
2. Moderately important to add more	126	26.1 %
3. About right, not a problem	217	45.0 %
4. Somewhat excessive	18	3.7 %
5. Too much, too many or excessive	9	1.9 %



**Respondents' Comments to Question 9**

- Keep weeds off.
- Important to maintain.
- We can never be too alert!
- Keep seawalls to minimum. We also have been on Indiana lakes with sea walls and believe the natural shore of Elk Lake is more appealing.

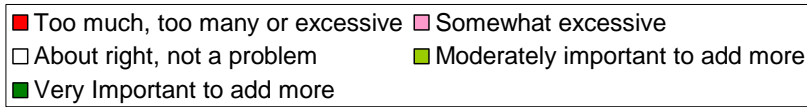
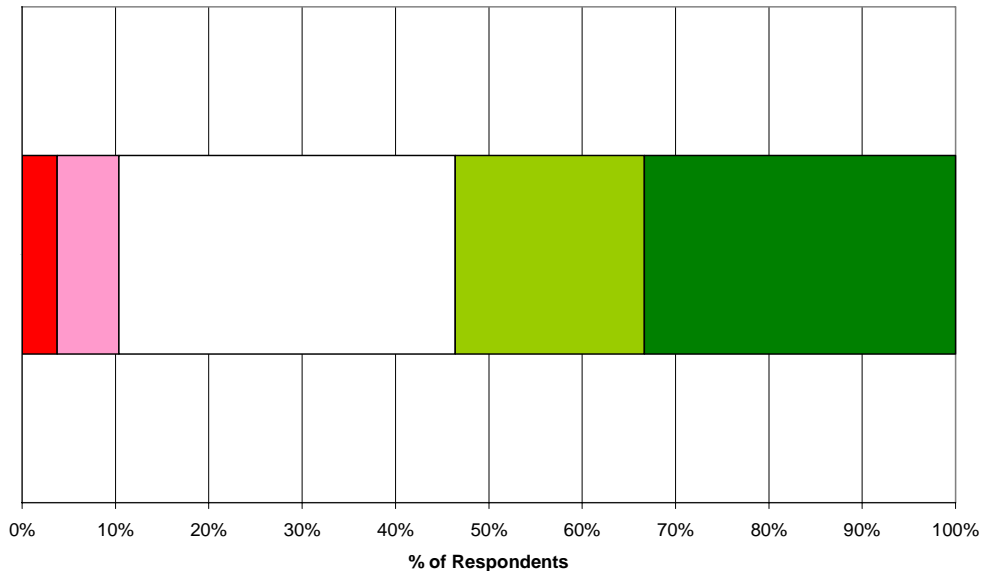
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**10. How important are local or Village conservation measures for wetlands and natural areas?**

No. of survey forms returned: **500**

No. of responses to this question: **483**

<u>Response Scale</u>	<u>Count</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
1. Very important to add more	161	33.3 %
2. Moderately important to add more	98	20.3 %
3. About right, not a problem	174	36.0 %
4. Somewhat excessive	32	6.6 %
5. Too much, too many or excessive	18	3.7 %



**Respondents' Comments to Question 10**

- Preserve the "Preserve" --- restore to wetlands! Elk Rapids is appealing because it is small, there is evident pride in home ownership, the people are friendly, the streets are tree-lined, the gardens well cared for. Industry is mostly hidden. Downtown is attractive.

It's a bedroom community for many, but careful selection of industry to bring in must be considered or the current flavor will be lost. The historic neighborhoods, parks, and marina add beauty and appeal. Don't mess it up with out-of-control seasonal rentals and tourism catering --- there's plenty of that already!

I'd prefer to work here and I may someday instead of driving elsewhere, but I chose to live here and sacrifice with a work commute, to come home to a quiet, peaceful home... don't steal my serenity in the name of growth --- PLEASE!

- e.g. - Clous development got this far!
- Poor

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**Respondents' Comments to Question 10 (cont.)**

- It would be good if the so-called "Preserve" south of 4th St could be put back to its original natural condition. At present the mosquitoes have a great breeding ground with those open ponds and they are 10 times worse than they used to be. Also the ponds stink in the summer time.
- \* Village sometimes over-emphasizes infrastructure improvements over natural resource protection.
- \* Survey/inventory remaining wetlands and natural features.

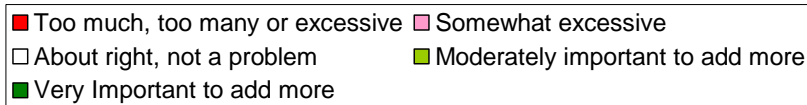
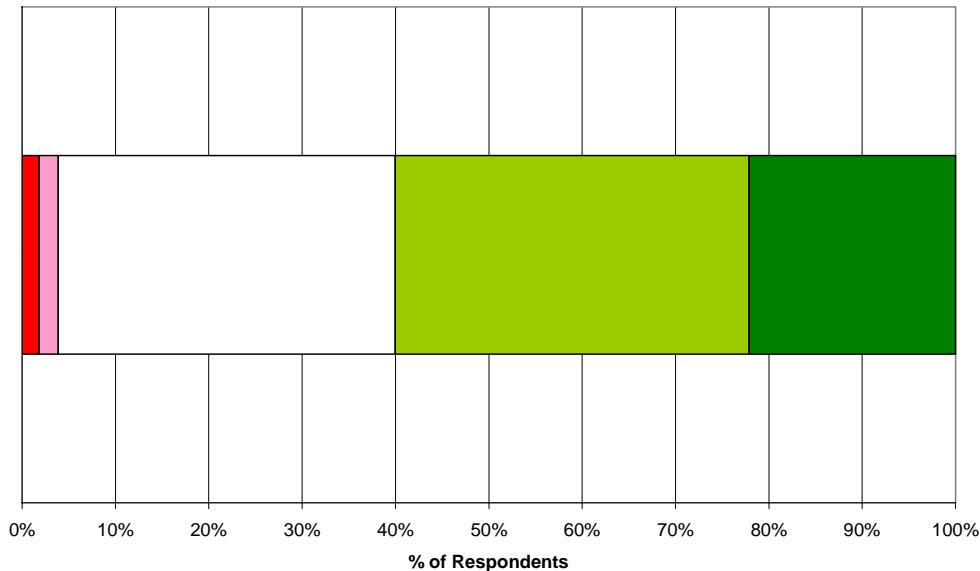
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**11. How important are public facilities (toilets, etc.) at parks and recreational areas?**

No. of survey forms returned: **500**

No. of responses to this question: **493**

<u>Response Scale</u>	<u>Count</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
1. Very important to add more	109	22.1 %
2. Moderately important to add more	187	37.9 %
3. About right, not a problem	178	36.1 %
4. Somewhat excessive	10	2.0 %
5. Too much, too many or excessive	9	1.8 %



**Respondents' Comments to Question 11**

- Permanent toilets in Memorial Park, no port-o-toilets.
- Enough if we unlock the current one!
- We need public rest rooms in our parks and in the area owned by the county and used by the Village "Dam Beach" so that the Bay which we live on stays clean and the beaches are not closed down.
- Local taxpayers are already taxed plenty to make rude, disrespectful tourists comfortable. Let the taxpayers who financially benefit from tourism ante up for the maintenance of tourist comforts.

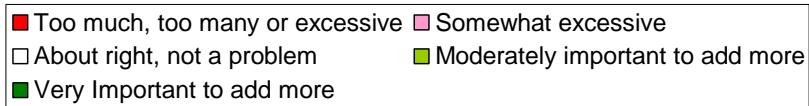
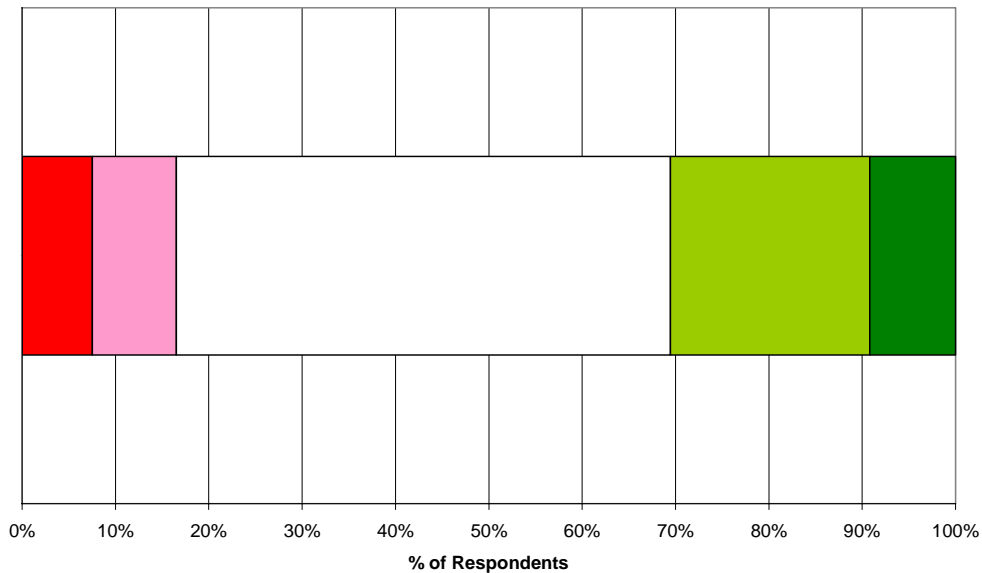
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**12. How important are waterfront restaurants, inns, or hotels?**

No. of survey forms returned: **500**

No. of responses to this question: **491**

<u>Response Scale</u>	<u>Count</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
1. Very important to add more	45	9.2 %
2. Moderately important to add more	105	21.4 %
3. About right, not a problem	260	53.0 %
4. Somewhat excessive	44	9.0 %
5. Too much, too many or excessive	37	7.5 %



**Respondents' Comments to Question 12**

- Do not need any!
- Do not want to block waterfront view.
- What hotels?
- No more condos!
- you had an opportunity to allow expansion of Beach Resort and nixed it: WHY?
- Not condos!
- Not necessary
- We liked the Sandwich Shoppe.
- Need River Café type

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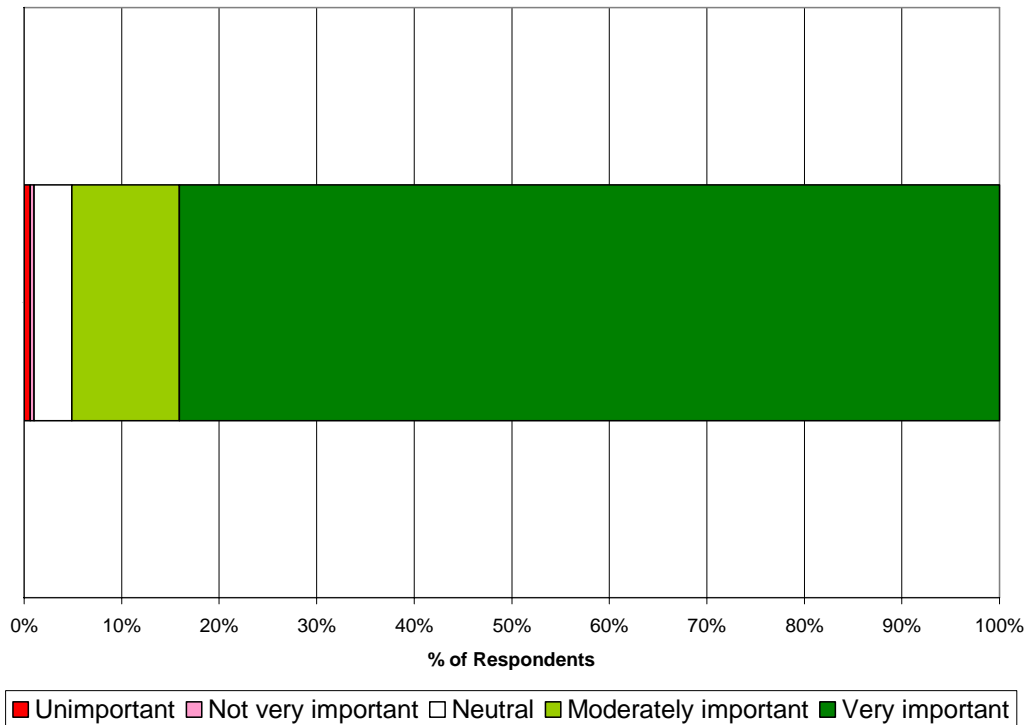
**v. Protection of Village Qualities**

**78. How important is the protection of the following Village quality/facility: Scenic views of the water?**

No. of survey forms returned: **500**

No. of responses to this question: **490**

<u>Response Scale</u>	<u>Count</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
1. Very important	412	84.1 %
2. Moderately important	54	11.0 %
3. Neutral	19	3.9 %
4. Not very important	2	0.4 %
5. Unimportant	3	0.6 %



**Respondents' Comments to Question 78**

(No comments from Respondents)

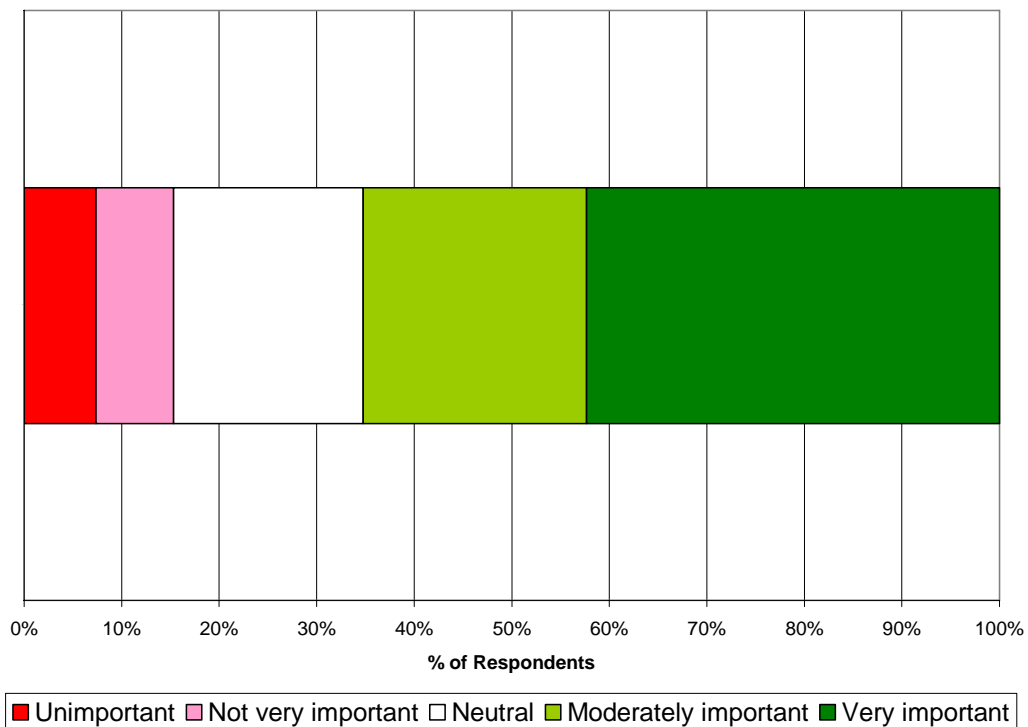
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**87. How important is the protection of the following Village quality/facility: Waterfront parks that are free of all structures and buildings?**

No. of survey forms returned: **500**

No. of responses to this question: **489**

<u>Response Scale</u>	<u>Count</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
1. Very important	207	42.3 %
2. Moderately important	112	22.9 %
3. Neutral	95	19.4 %
4. Not very important	39	8.0 %
5. Unimportant	36	7.4 %



**Respondents' Comments to Question 87**

- Bandshell
- In favor of small bathroom facility
- Need restrooms in park
- Need more toilets
- Need restrooms
- Add permanent toilets
- Get rid of porta-potties and put in an attractive restroom building. It should have a MEN and WOMEN side and be small scale
- Need bathrooms
- Need restrooms
- Need CLEAN restrooms
- Except bathrooms
- Rest rooms? Marina bldg?

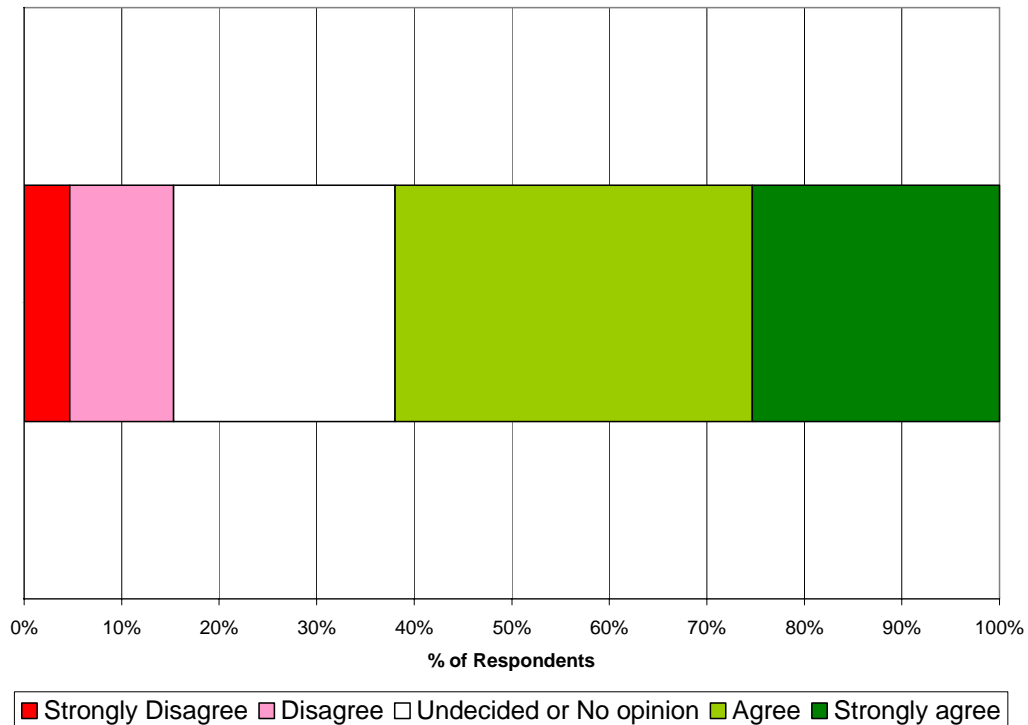
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**127. Should ER develop the following additional recreational facilities: Waterfront parks?**

No. of survey forms returned: **500**

No. of responses to this question: **489**

<u>Response Scale</u>	<u>Count</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
1. Strongly agree	124	25.4 %
2. Agree	179	36.6 %
3. Undecided or no opinion	111	22.7 %
4. Disagree	52	10.6 %
5. Strongly disagree	23	4.7 %



**Respondents' Comments to Question 127**

- What kind? Amusement --- no..
- Improve the ones we have
- Maintain (add trees) what we have --- research sand erosion, blowing
- Keep up the ones we have --- i.e., County Park, Veterans, Dam Beach, N Bayshore
- Add ONLY DAM BEACH!